



(719)

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
City of Huntington Beach  
Civic Center – Council Chambers  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Kreitz called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., Gasparian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Albert Gasparian; Dave Hubbard; Susie Jones; Jay Kreitz; Cathy McGough; Dan Moss; John Myers; Nick Tomaino

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Allan Pogrund (excused); Brian Rechsteiner (excused)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Engle; David Dominguez; Kyle Lindo; Karin Reed; Mary Loadsman

**PRESENTATIONS** – none.

**MINUTES:**

**Moved by Tomaino, seconded by Moss to approve the September 8, 2010 Community Services Commission minutes.**

**Ayes:** Hubbard; McGough; Moss; Tomaino  
**Absent:** Pogrund; Rechsteiner  
**Abstain:** Jones; Kreitz; Myers

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –**

Dan LaFontaine, a resident and business owner in Huntington Beach commented that the proposed beach volleyball rules best serve the majority, however, asked to learn who would enforce the two-hour time limit for play without compromising beach safety. He commented that there are no rules that are going to satisfy everyone. He is a proponent of having some challenge courts and some first-come, first-served courts.

Gary Pope, a resident and business owner in Huntington Beach stated objections to the proposed volleyball rules saying they lacked clear goals and objectives or ways to enforce them. He indicated that the rules would not be necessary 12 months out of the year, but necessary during peak and high demand times. He asked for some challenge courts, some first-come first-served courts, gender specific courts, a scoring system and a way to enforce the rules.

Tom Nilan, organizer of the Huntington Beach Meet-Up Group, commended the Commission for doing a great job with handling the beach volleyball issues. He favors the first-come, first-served system however, understood that if having some challenge courts would help satisfy some people, then he would support it. He agrees that voluntary compliance is difficult to enforce and assured the Commission that whatever rules are decided, the Meet-Up Group would comply.

John Craney, a Huntington Beach Resident, is not satisfied with the volleyball rules and guidelines. He indicated that when the volleyball courts are removed for special events, he understands the city is getting revenue, however, he would rather the courts be permanent, available to the residents of Huntington Beach and the volleyball players that pay for parking and eat in the nearby restaurants.

**DIRECTOR'S ITEMS** – Engle introduced Karin Reed, Administrative Assistant to the Community Services Department, replacing Kati Von Holle who retired. He also shared the photograph of the new Beach Restrooms and an article that was published in "Recreation Management" magazine. The article talked about the facilities as "friendly" amenities, green structures and great recognition for the city. Engle also mentioned that Betty Kennedy who served on the Commission and several boards and committees for the city for 22 years, had passed away. Engle asked the commissioners to pass the information on to anyone who may have known her and asked to be contacted if additional information is needed. Engle reported having attended the grand opening of the Oasis Senior Center in Newport Beach commenting that it is a "first-class" facility similar in size to the senior center Huntington Beach had planned. The original engineering estimate to build Oasis was \$22 million and ending up being built for \$15 million. Engle confirmed it was a remodel of the original structure.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS -**

**Gibbs Park** – Leslie Gilson presented a photograph of the park area where artist tiles would be placed around the existing mural. The artist tiles would depict the lifecycle of the Monarch Butterfly, a great educational tool for children and enhancement to the area. Dominguez explained the action being presented is for the concept of placing tiles around the existing mural. This action would assist Gilson in her efforts to raise the necessary funds for the tiles and tile installation. Dominguez noted that once Gilson obtained the necessary funds for the improvements, the actual tile design would be subject to the city approval process.

**Motion:**

**Moved by Moss, seconded by Myers to approve the concept of placing eight (8) 36" diameter artist designed tiles around the existing large tile mural at Gibbs Park.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Beach Volleyball Rules – Engle addressed the public comment regarding special events impacting use of the beach volleyball courts. He reported that the City Council's strategy is to bring people to Huntington Beach to increase revenue at the hotels, restaurants and businesses, to help build a better financial base for the community. Over the last two years the city has lost over \$20 Million in revenue with \$12 Million from the state alone. Engle explained that staff is following council direction and strategic plan to bring more tourism to the city with booking special events at the pier area.

Chief Lindo reported that the majority of concerns regarding volleyball involve the pier area. Working through the subcommittee, the commissioners and staff listened to all of the concerns in detail from the public and carefully drafted a set of rules to address as many of the concerns as possible as part of that process. The rules are intended to incorporate and allow everyone to participate in the volleyball activities at the pier without excluding any specific groups. Chief Lindo offered to review each of the rules to answer any questions and address any concerns the commission may have.

Gasparian commented that there are no clear cut answers that would satisfy everyone. Gasparian said he would like to go on record that the city does need major events on the beach and that he understood council direction even though the events displace the volleyball courts at times. Gasparian commented that the largest part of the problem is that use of the volleyball courts has grown in popularity and a number of courts are removed for events at the peak of each season when the courts have the greatest usage. Therefore, there are obviously going to be conflicts. He recommended that even with budget constraints that more resources be allocated to having more courts whenever possible because of the high demand and use. Gasparian said the process and the rules that were drafted tried to accommodate as many concerns as possible. He expressed that there may be a need for challenge courts or some kind of compromise however the rules should be given a trial run to see how things are working and if needed, be revised in the future.

Commission and staff discussed the potential of adding quality courts elsewhere on the beach to help offset the loss of courts during events. There was also discussion about the two-hour time limit and whether or not organized groups would require a special permit.

Chair Kreitz reviewed the comments commission presented: adopt the rules for a trial period, review of rules in six-months, look at the option of having challenge courts, look at having a citizen's group to provide input and help maintain the courts, ways to add courts, vandalism at the courts, enforcing rules, maps of volleyball court locations posted at the Public Service Center along with a calendar of events.

**MOTION:**

**Moved by Gasparian, seconded by Moss to:**

- 1) Adopt the Volleyball Rules for use of the public volleyball courts on the city beach for a trial period of one year with a review at Commission after six-months.**
- 2) Form a citizen's group to maintain the courts and provide input into how the rules are working.**
- 3) Investigate options to add additional courts or alternate site for courts when pier courts are removed for special events.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**INFORMATION ITEMS –**

Community Garden – Dominguez reported that staff has diligently been working with a volunteer 501 3(c) non-profit group for a community garden on property owned by Southern California Edison (SCE) near Brookhurst Street and Atlanta Avenue. The city has entered into a license agreement with SCE to utilize the property and will help the garden group through the process. He noted that staff was waiting for approval from SCE for the plot plan. He commented that the intent is for the garden to be operated completely by the volunteer organization through the conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding with the city.

Park Concession –Dominguez reported that Alice's Breakfast In the Park closed in September and noted that Community Services and Economic Development staff are reviewing proposals and negotiating with potential operators for the concession. He added that they hoped to have a concessionaire as soon as possible.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION** – Staff distributed interested parties email comments on October 5, 2010 to Community Services Commission regarding beach volleyball.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

HCP Equestrian Center – Kreitz noted the next committee meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2010.

Youth Sports Grant – Kreitz noted the next committee meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2010.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS –**

Hubbard commented that the pedestrian path north of the pier for the new restrooms looks great.

Myers thanked the Special Interest Committee for all of their hard work on the beach volleyball concerns. He noted that it would be impossible to please everyone however he hoped that the people who have spoken openly about the concerns and guidelines would be involved in helping to maintain the courts and stay involved in the process.

Moss thanked Gasparian for his contributions to the Special Interest Committee commenting that with his credibility, the initial 25 to 30 people who expressed concerns were able to voice their opinions and the committee was able to generate guidelines that were compatible with the majority, noting it is a good place to start.

Gasparian commented that most people will take the time to read and follow the rules and that if things aren't working in six months then the commission can revisit any concerns.

Jones thanked the Special Interest Committee members for their contributions.

Dominguez reported that staff was looking to change out the ballasts and adding shields to the sports lights at Gisler School. He said there have been complaints recently and that the project would use less than \$20,000 in park funds to complete.

Engle provided an update to commission on the status of agreements between the city and the school districts. He reminded the commissioners that the HBUHSD board took action to terminate the agreement with the city and that School Board Members and City Council members had been meeting on various concerns. He said compromises have been made and that the school district has agreed to allow the city to use the \$75,000 in demolition funds if it agrees not to build a skate park at Worthy Park. Engle also reported that the city will no longer be in charge of field allocations for the city, that the city would continue to coordinate the city's fields and that the school districts will be in charge of their own field allocation process. He said the groups have been working together on fair solutions and reasonable compromises. It is his understanding that the schools will cooperate in a common fee structure and that new agreements are in the process. Moss commented that he was aware of the field allocation changes asking

when the changes will start. Engle noted that HBUHSD took control of field allocations for the fall and that most of the other schools have planned for changes in the spring. He said the school districts will use the city's current list as a starting point and guide towards a common solution.

### **ITEMS DISTRIBUTED**

Council on Aging Newsletter, October 2010.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Community Services Commission regular meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez  
Secretary  
Community Services Commission

By: Mary Loadsman, Recording Secretary